

are the Canadian vessels engaged in legitimate open sea enterprise, when poaching for migrating seals? He says England has never stated that Canadians were doing lawful work; also that Blaine has shown conclusively that England and Canada were both in the wrong.

Mr. Phelps charges the American press with want of patriotism in this matter. He says it is playing into the hands of England, and that England is filing away American literature on this subject, to show in future that public opinion in the United States favored the English side. He concludes his article as follows:

"There are three methods by which the Behring Sea question can be settled and by one or other of which it must soon be disposed of. First, by putting a stop without further debate to the depredations of individual foreigners upon the breeding seals. Second, by conceding to these foreigners the right to destroy the fishery, and withdrawing further remonstrance. Thirdly, by continuing the discussion with Great Britain of abstract questions supposed to be involved, until the extermination of the seal is completed, and the subject of the dispute thereby exhausted, for which we shall not have long to wait."

Well, suppose the extermination of the seal should take place. Would that be a calamity? The special agent of the Census Bureau in Alaska says that the Salmom fisheries of that Territory would be much more profitable than seal fisheries, if the seal were exterminated. The seals prey on the fish, and destroy as much annually as would supply the whole United States. A lady can manage to get on without a seal skin cloak but she can not do very well without nourishing food, and fish is almost a necessity. Besides the product of the seal goes to the rich and luxuriously inclined, whereas the fish would reach the workingman's table from Maine to California.

Perhaps the American press is right after all, though it may beby accident, rather than on principles of political economy. At all events, it seems as if it were a very insufficient question to think of going to war over. It is a matter that ought to be settled by peaceable methods on the basis of fairness and common sense.

A TERRIBLE TALE OF WOE.

WE have seen in a great many eastern papers accounts of the troubles of a family by the name of Thomas, said to be from Salt Lake City, but who, it appears, while in this Territory lived at Scofield where the man worked in the mines.

The story is that these people lived for five years at that place, but were pestered by the "Mormons" with "demands that they should join the

Church and, on their refusal to do so, the "Mormons" threatened to kill them and made life unbearable to them."

In the early part of February the husband decided to return to Wales with his family and in a few days purchased tickets to Wales via steamer from New York. Meanwhile the man was so harassed by his surroundings that he was afraid of his life and left Scofield with the feeling that he was being pursued by some one who was trying to kill him, and while crossing the Detroit River he thought he saw one of his pursuers and jumped into the river to escape. The wife was nearly wild at the loss of her husband and thought that men were pursuing her also to kill her, and would not be comforted. She had four children aged nine, six, four and two years, and a four months' old babe. The wife had her steamer ticket from New York to Liverpool, but the husband had in his pocket the railroad tickets and checks for their baggage.

The sequel of this story was that benevolent people, excited over this new atrocity of the "Mormons," made up the money to pay the passage of these people to Wales, and they sailed in a steamer from New York. In all probability there will be another "sensational" made out of this terrible tale, on the arrival of the "escaped victims" in Wales, and the papers of the Principality will repeat the nonsense copied from journal to journal in the United States.

It may be useless to say to our eastern contemporaries that there is not a syllable of truth in any story of attempts by the "Mormons" to compel or in any way unduly influence people to join their Church. Scofield is in Pleasant Valley, Emery County, about a hundred miles from Salt Lake City, and the population is only about half "Mormon." The idea of "Mormons" trying to force people into their Church is not only antagonistic to the spirit and doctrine and practice of the Church, but is utterly absurd in view of the situation at Scofield.

The poor creature Thomas, who committed suicide, may have been deranged on this subject and may possibly have frightened his family into believing the nonsense that affected his own weak brain. But the probabilities are that the good people of the East have been played upon and preyed upon, once more, by deceiving persons who have availed themselves of the popular ignorance concerning the "Mormons," in a scheme to raise some money.

There is no earthly reason why the "Mormons" should want to compel

people to join their Church. There never was a genuine case of this character. All the tales that have been told to the contrary were sheer fiction. Among the sturdy miners of Scofield such an occurrence as that alleged in the Thomas romance would be simply impossible, and the press of the East should by this time be better acquainted with the truth about Utah than to be hoodwinked by such palpable falsehoods.

We hope some of our Scofield friends will inquire into this matter and send us the true particulars, if such persons as Mrs. Annie Thomas and her husband Thomas Thomas and family ever lived there. We will publish the facts when received, though in all probability the press and the public, as usual, will prefer to hold fast to the fiction.

SCHOOL BOND ELECTION.

The following affidavit for a writ of prohibition was served on the Utah Commission by United States Deputy Marshal Bynon March 24th: In the District Court for the Third Judicial District, Utah Territory.

Utah Territory, Salt Lake County, ss. Richard W. Young of said county, being duly sworn, says: I am a member of the Board of Education of said city, organized and acting under Chapter 15 of the act of the Legislative Assembly of said Territory, approved March 13th, 1890, entitled "An act to provide for a uniform system of free schools throughout Utah Territory." That on the 24th day of February, 1891, said Board of Education, in their judgment, deeming it advisable, being duly convened, resolved to call a meeting as authorized by section 122 of said act, and submit to a vote of the school district of Salt Lake City whether bonds of said district to the amount of \$300,000 shall be issued and sold for the purpose of raising money for purchasing school-house sites and building schoolhouses and supplying the same with furniture, necessary apparatus and improving the grounds; and that on the 7th day of March, 1891, the president and clerk of said Board of Education were about to call such meeting by publishing notices thereof, as prescribed by section 123 of said act; that then their action in that behalf was presented by the Utah Commission, consisting of G. L. Godfrey, J. A. McCleruand, A. B. Williams, Alvin Saunders and R. S. Robertson; that on said last named day said Utah Commission gave out and declared their exclusive right and authority to give notice of said meeting, appoint voting places, supervise the election by judges, exceeding in number those provided for in section 124 of said act, and requiring the returns of said election to be made to themselves. That on the day aforesaid said Utah Commission caused their secretary to issue and publish a notice, of which the following is a copy:

"Notice is hereby given that an election will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah, on Monday, the 30th day of March, 1891, for the purpose of voting upon the issuance